



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Ministry Update

WMABC Conference and AGM

Tess Rouse – Director, Extended Producer Responsibility
Environmental Protection Division
February 22, 2024

Overview

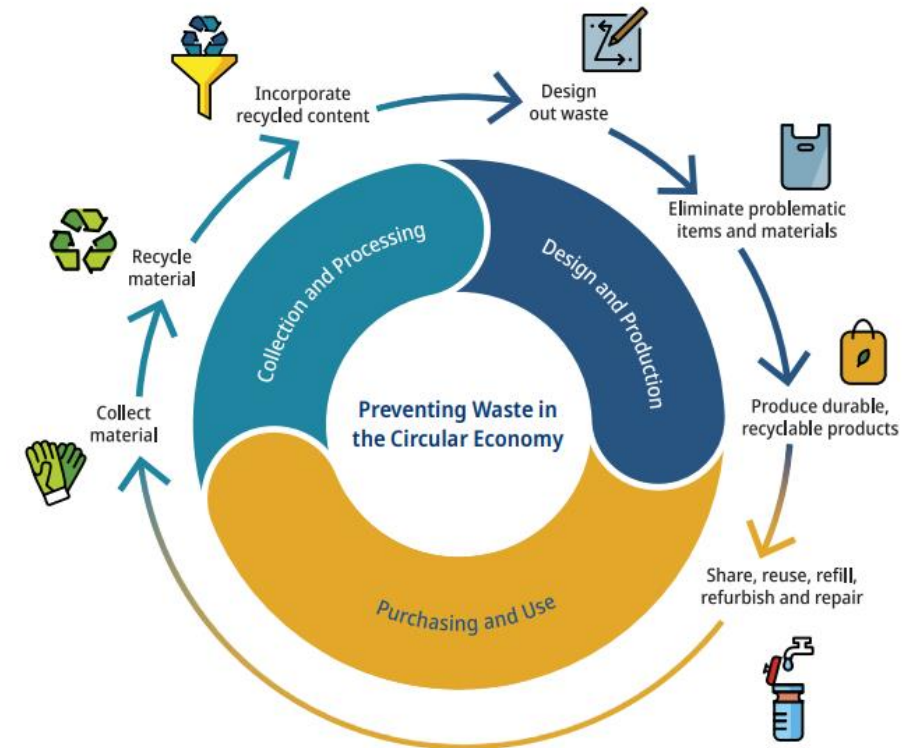
- **Circular Economy**
- **CleanBC Plastics Action Plan**
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):
Five-Year Action Plan**
- **Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI):
Packaging and Paper Products**



Circular Economy

The **CleanBC Roadmap** outlines a need for a **Circular Economy approach** to accelerate climate action and waste reduction.

- Work is currently underway to hear from a broad range of **industries** (Forestry, Mining, Agriculture, Built Environment), **local governments, NGOs and Indigenous communities**.
- Focus on documenting **circularity in action** already occurring throughout the Province and identifying **opportunities and challenges** for the future.
- Expected for release in spring 2024, the **Circular Economy approach** will discuss the adoption of circular business models and success stories throughout B.C. and identify opportunities and challenges for continued growth across the province.



CleanBC Plastics Action Plan



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Phase-out Single-Use Items

- Single-use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation



Increasing Recycled Content

- Plastics Action Fund
- ICI Packaging



EPR: Expanding Programs

- EPR Five-Year Action Plan



Economic Recovery Funding

- Clean Coast Clean Waters



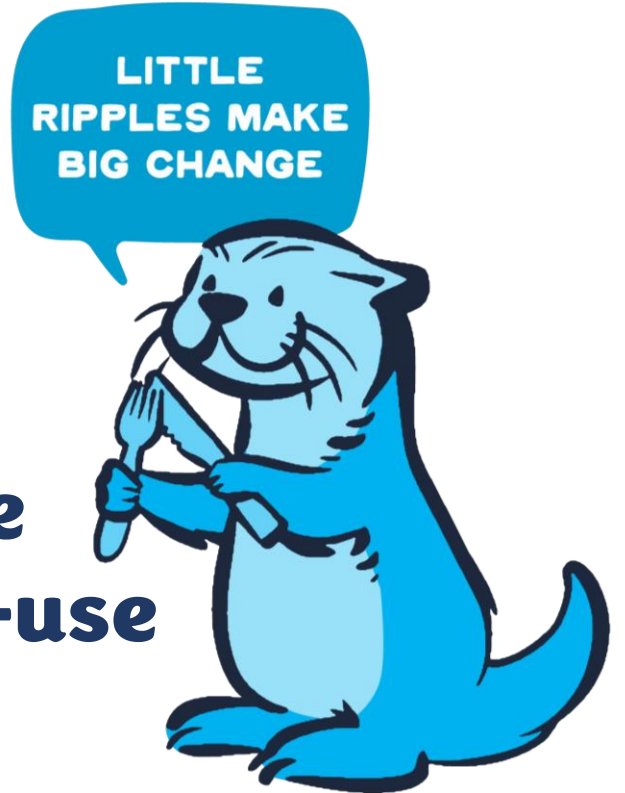
Single-use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation

Announced on July 14, 2023, the regulation supports the **prevention of waste and promotion of a circular economy** by:

- Supporting the phase-out of unnecessary single-use and plastic items.
- Promoting the shift to durable, reusable items and systems.
- Encouraging higher levels of recycling and waste management.



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**Reduce
single-use**

Overview of the Regulation

Who:

Business operators

Food service providers

What:



Food service accessories



Shopping bags



Food service ware



Oxo-degradable plastics

How:

× Limiting single-use plastic utensils
• “By-request” requirements

× Banning single-use plastic shopping bags
• Fee requirements for alternatives

× Limiting the use of hard-to-
recycle plastics

× Ban on all oxo-degradable packaging &
single-use products

Modernization of Programs: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



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- **Extended Producer responsibility (EPR) Programs**
 - EPR shifts the **financial responsibility** from local and Indigenous governments and taxpayers to producers and consumers.
 - Provides incentives to **reduce waste, improve design** and **conserve resources**.
 - Required obligated producers to have an approved EPR plan that is reviewed by the producer/agency every five years with a **focus on continual improvement**.
- **Four EPR plans currently under Statutory Decision Maker review:**
 - Tires Stewardship BC
 - Call2Recycle (batteries)
 - Interchange Recycling
 - Brewers' Recycled Container Collection Council (schedules 1 and 5)

Modernization of Programs: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



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Producer Paying the Cost

- Updating 2018 guidance to make it more clear how to demonstrate in EPR Plan that the producer is paying the cost.

Five-Year Plan Review with No Amendments

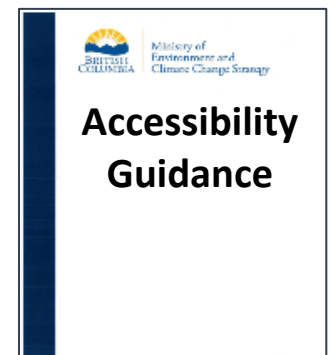
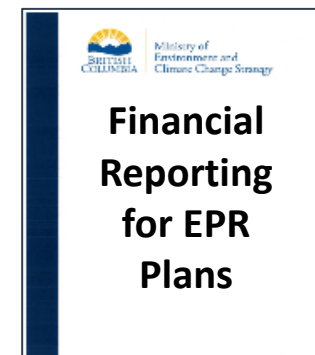
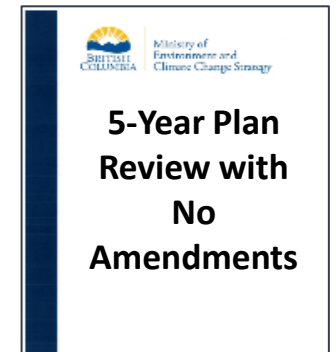
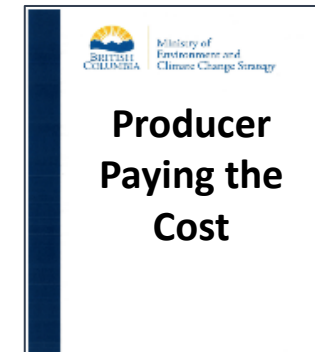
- Ministry's expectations for when a producer advises the director that no amendments to the approved plan are necessary at the 5-year review.

Financial Reporting Guidance

- Outlines the types of financial statements to be submitted with an EPR Plan's annual report.

Accessibility Guidance

- Developing guidelines for EPR programs to support better access to recycling services, with more consideration for remote communities.



EPR Five-Year Action Plan

Products to be added to the regulation in 2024 with programs operational in 2025/26:

- **Mattresses**
- **Single-use compressed canisters (including aerosols)**
 - Propane tanks less than 100 lbs
 - Spray foam tanks
 - Fire extinguishers
- **Automotive containers**
- **More batteries**
- **Medical sharps**



ICI Packaging and Printed Paper



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To identify a provincial policy approach to prevent landfilling of packaging waste from the Industrial, Commercial, Institutional (ICI) sector by 2025.

- **2023 – Working group on Interim Options in Rural and Remote Communities.**
 - Comprised of Indigenous representatives, local governments, business associations and WMABC.
 - Final report distributed to working group members with potential pilot programs identified.
- **2024 – Discussion paper to be released in spring 2024, followed by an engagement period.**
 - **Define** guiding principles to develop a shared vision and outcomes for preventing ICI packaging and plastic waste.
 - **Engage** the opportunity to expand leading recycling and waste prevention programs in B.C. and learn of new approaches.
 - **Inform** future policy approaches and prioritization of materials, timelines and scope.



CleanBC Plastics Action Fund

Since 2020, investing over **\$40M** to support innovative plastic waste reduction projects across the province.

- **The fund has supported over 30 projects with businesses and Indigenous communities to reduce plastic waste.**
 - Increasing B.C.'s capacity to process recycled plastics by an anticipated 38,000 tonnes annually.
 - Preventing an estimated 38 million single-use containers.
 - Creating over 240 direct full-time jobs.
- **Applications are currently being accepted with over \$20M available in four funding categories:**
 1. Post-consumer recycled (PCR) plastics
 2. Circular economy innovation – Reuse and Repair
 3. Regional plastics innovation
 4. Indigenous projects



Apply through Alacrity Canada: [Plastic Action Fund](#) | Alacrity Canada

Clean Coast Clean Waters



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Started in 2020 as part of the StrongerBC Economic Recovery Plan

- The goal is to **support coastal communities** as they recover from the **COVID-19 economic downturn** and **loss of tourism** by supporting **B.C.'s work on addressing marine debris**.
- **\$49.83M in funds** have been committed, and the application window to use the remaining funds is **open until April 15, 2024**.
- **By 2022, the fund had already:**
 - Cleaned over 4,600 km of shoreline.
 - Removed over 1,500 tonnes of debris, including 118 derelict vessels.
 - Achieved a 64% recycling/upcycling rate for shoreline clean-up projects.
 - Created over 1,700 jobs.



Photo credit: Jeff Reynolds, Wilderness Tourism Association of B.C.



Photo credit: Coastal Restoration Society



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Thank you

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